United Nations A/62/15 (Part III)

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 July 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session

Report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-second executive session*

Geneva, 27 June 2007

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* The present document is an advance version of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-second executive session, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 27 June 2007. It will appear in final form, together with the reports on the fortieth executive session, the forty-first executive session and the fifty-fourth session of the Board, as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 15* (A/62/15).

07-44304 (E) 210807

I. Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in favour of Africa

(Agenda item 2)

1. For its consideration of this item, the Board had before it the following documentation:

"Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in favour of Africa: Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD" (TD/B/EX(42)/2).

2. The **Secretary-General of UNCTAD**[1] said that the international community, including the G8, had increasingly focused on assisting Africa. In recent years, the amount of official development assistance (ODA) given to Africa had increased, although it had mostly been in the form of debt relief. While commending those initiatives, he said that even the total cancellation of its debt would not address Africa's development challenges unless it was complemented by adequate resource transfers. Meanwhile, however, Africa was making strides in the area of governance, with increasing participation in the African Peer Review Mechanism. He suggested that African countries that had not yet ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption do so quickly.

3. The secretariat had expanded its technical assistance for debt management and information and communication technology in Africa with the distribution of personal computers and servers. It had organized training workshops on, for example, commodity production and trade, the management of mineral wealth and investment promotion. In February 2007 several countries had participated in a regional workshop in Egypt on key international development issues, which was part of UNCTAD's Paragraph 166 training courses. In addition, UNCTAD had provided technical input to several South–South cooperation initiatives. Advisory services had been supplied in connection with the WTO Aid for Trade initiative and the ACP–EU Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations, and various activities had been carried out under the umbrella of the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme to Selected Least Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP). UNCTAD had contributed to the cluster system of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), serving as vice-chair of the new cluster on industry, trade and market access. Its work on private sector development had been consolidated through the expanded use of EMPRETEC in Africa.

4. The Secretary-General urged Africa to take the steps identified in the Arusha Plan of Action on African Commodities in order to diversify into higher-value-added products. UNCTAD, for its part, should undertake more analytical work on such commodity issues as competitiveness, diversification and South–South trade in commodities, as well as new initiatives to assist African commodity producers. Given the windfalls generated by the cyclical commodity booms, guidelines on the best ways to use those revenues for sustainable development should be developed.

5. The continent's inward FDI flows had increased steadily, reaching a peak of about $40 billion in 2006, although its share of global flows remained marginal. The secretariat's work could emphasize the potential role of FDI in helping African countries meet the MDG target of halving poverty by 2015, as well as in increasing productivity in their economies through the dissemination of knowledge and

[1] In the absence of the Secretary-General, this statement was delivered by the Director of the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes.

technological innovation and diffusion. Regional integration represented an opportunity for Africa to create new markets for domestic producers, and could help African countries promote industrialization and technological upgrading in order to enhance competitiveness and participation in global production chains.

6. Referring to UNCTAD's 2007 report on economic development in Africa, the Secretary-General underlined the importance of harnessing domestic financial resources to raise additional finance in order to narrow Africa's resource gap and accelerate economic development and poverty reduction. Having the ability to finance an increasing share of their development needs from domestic sources would give African countries much-needed flexibility in formulating and implementing appropriate policies, namely policies that addressed their economic, social and other development challenges, giving true meaning to the concepts of "ownership" and "policy space". For its part, the secretariat had launched a project on financial resource mobilization in Africa, funded by the United Nations Development Account and covering the period 2006–2008; its main objective was to help African countries identify alternative sources of non-debt-creating external and domestic resources and use them more efficiently for poverty reduction. The project covered seven countries from throughout the continent. Preliminary findings on the first six case studies would be presented at a regional seminar in Benin in July 2007.

7. In conclusion, with regard to UNCTAD XII, the Secretary-General said that one of its key events would be a high-level segment of Heads of State and Government on "Trade and development for Africa's prosperity", whose discussions would centre on five key areas: investment, ODA, trade, commodities and migration.

8. The representative of **Honduras**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China**, welcomed the report on UNCTAD's activities in favour of Africa. Referring to the recent high prices of commodities, he warned against a false sense of security on the part of the commodity-dependent African countries. He welcomed the new commitment announced at this year's G8 summit regarding an increase in ODA disbursement. Furthermore, he pointed out that the African economy's 5.7 per cent growth rate recorded in 2006 and the estimate of 5.8 per cent for 2007 were still lower than the 7–8 per cent rate required in order to meet the development target of halving absolute poverty by 2015. Moreover, although African countries had received debt relief, their debt-servicing burden had not become lighter owing to the increased interest rate. That situation required further efforts by the international community.

9. The representative of **Angola**, speaking on behalf of the **African Group**, stressed that the recent rapid increase in FDI inflows into Africa had not increased the region's share of global FDI. The Group was interested in the issue of South–South FDI, particularly the activities of Asian SMEs in Africa, as they had greater potential to link with firms and institutions in Africa's host economies. In that context, UNCTAD's recent publication on Asian FDI in Africa was timely and useful, and more research-based information on concrete initiatives to improve local capabilities and enhance FDI flows would be welcome. The joint initiative of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and UNCTAD to build capacities to collect quality data on FDI was a very important step. The Group requested UNCTAD to further increase its technical assistance to African countries to enable them to improve FDI data collection and reporting systems. The Group appreciated

the recommendations of the Investment Policy Reviews, which were tailored to the specific needs of each country, and commended UNCTAD's effort to improve the African Peer Review Mechanism. Furthermore, African countries counted on continued support in the context of international investment agreements. Liberalization would be marginal when a country lacked competitive local suppliers that could adapt. Local capacity-building and skill development should constitute a major element of national supply capacity programmes in Africa. The Aid for Trade initiative should integrate the investment component and embrace policies promoting technology transfer, entrepreneurship, enterprise development and the consolidation of productive chains.

10. The African Group appreciated the assistance provided by EMPRETEC in Africa and looked forward to its further expansion. It had proved successful in promoting business linkages. Businesses made corporate responsibility part of their business model, and the speaker suggested that UNCTAD continue to work closely with transnational corporations in order to commit them to the development of local suppliers. Africa's weak participation in international trade and its dependence on commodities required that special focus be given to the continent's needs and interests. The capacity-building activities in respect of trade negotiations and the strengthening of the contribution of international trade to increasing welfare and poverty reduction were crucial for Africa's effective participation in multilateral trade negotiations.

11. Referring to the work on commodities as a major component of UNCTAD's support to service trade policy for African countries, the speaker said that his Group looked forward to the establishment of the Pan-African Commodity Exchange, and expressed appreciation to UNCTAD for its valuable support for that initiative. The Group also welcomed the Global Initiative on Commodities in the preparatory process for UNCTAD XII, and had high expectations concerning its operationalization and implementation.

12. The speaker expressed his Group's concern about the role of UNCTAD in the Integrated Framework, and asked about the strategy that UNCTAD would adopt to improve its participation in the Enhanced Integrated Framework. Also, he suggested that UNCTAD intensify its efforts to implement, jointly with the international community, the Almaty Programme of Action for landlocked and transit developing countries. In so doing, it should support the African developing countries among those countries in designing and implementing practical solutions for improving transit transport operations. The Group was pleased to see the increasing participation of African universities in the UNCTAD Virtual Institute, and commended UNCTAD for its support to the building of trade-related academic programmes at African universities, as well as the strengthening of research skills among African academics.

13. In conclusion, the speaker noted the activities undertaken by UNCTAD in African countries to support the use of ICTs for their development, and said that more must be done to use ICTs to enable African countries to enjoy better opportunities for participation in international trade and investment flows.

14. The representative of **Benin**, speaking on behalf of the least developed countries (LDCs), commended UNCTAD for the quality of the background documents it had prepared and its activities carried out to help LDCs build their capacities and promote trade. However, more needed to be done to meet the various

and growing needs of the African countries in general and of LDCs in particular – for example, an extension of JITAP to phase III. All partner institutions of the IF should strive to make it an efficient tool for poverty reduction by reinforcing implementation capacity. It was regrettable that UNCTAD no longer produced commodities policy analysis as it had done in the 1970s. There should be a creative revival of past UNCTAD work in that area in order to assist African countries in designing integrated diversification programmes for their commodity-based economies. The results of UNCTAD's current work on investment promotion were mixed, and there should therefore be a shift towards assessing the quality and impact of FDI, especially in the mining sector. Such work should help LDCs acquire the capacity to negotiate better contracts. It could start with an exchange of experiences and best practices among developing countries, and the preparation of model contracts for exploration and for exploitation of minerals. In addition, there should be an assessment of the development partnerships launched at UNCTAD XI for the following three sectors: commodities, investment, and capacity-building for training and research institutes in developing countries. Moreover, NEPAD deserved more support.

15. The representative of **Thailand**, speaking on behalf of the Asian Group, noted that interregional cooperation between Asia and Africa had been growing through South–South trade and the Asian-African Forum, as well as other arrangements. Her Group commended the efforts of the secretariat to enhance the economic growth and development of Africa, and its activities such as those in NEPAD, commodity programmes, Investment Policy Reviews, debt sustainability analysis and management, and joint integrated technical assistance programmes should be further strengthened. In conclusion, she said that the Asian Group felt that UNCTAD XII, to be held in Accra in 2008, would provide an excellent opportunity for it to further enhance work in those areas, and it was looking forward to working with the African Group and other regional Groups in the coming months.

16. The representative of **Germany**, speaking on behalf of the **European Union** (EU), reiterated the EU's commitment to the development of Africa, with emphasis on the key principles, namely partnership, responsibility and ownership, good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Despite the recent progress in Africa as witnessed in high overall economic growth fuelled by large commodity exports, together with poverty reduction in several countries, Africa still needed a vigorous impetus to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. At the recent G8 summit in Germany, developed and developing countries had agreed on a core set of development principles that should guide their cooperation. A joint EU–Africa strategy centred on strengthened political partnership and enhanced cooperation would be at the heart of the EU–Africa summit to be held in Lisbon (Portugal) in December 2007.

17. UNCTAD's work in favour of Africa should revolve around three main areas: trade and investment analysis; capacity-building, particularly in negotiating trade and investment agreements; and technical assistance projects. The IF and JITAP programmes, as well as UNCTAD's activities in support of NEPAD, were particularly suited to helping achieve the objectives set. Noting that assistance to Africa should be demand-driven, the speaker invited African countries to express their views on the best way in which UNCTAD and the donor community could deliver aid more efficiently. The holding of UNCTAD XII in Ghana would provide a good opportunity to demonstrate the symbiotic relationship between UNCTAD and

developing countries. Also, Africa would have a chance to recommit itself to finding solutions to unresolved challenges, for example the continuing fight against poverty. In conclusion, the speaker said that the EU was ready to continue the dialogue on Africa with all relevant partners.

18. The representative of **India** noted that despite some real signs of improving economic performance since 2003 Africa still required large amounts of aid to address its immense development needs. The donor community should honour its pledge to increase total aid to 0.7 per cent of gross national income. India and Africa had built a mutually beneficial relationship. For instance, the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme had so far trained almost 1,000 African officials every year in various capacity-building programmes, while Indian colleges and universities now admitted about 15,000 African students annually. Indian professionals in Africa in areas such as engineering, medicine, accounting and teaching had also made contributions to African development.

19. In 1992, the Indian Government had launched the Focus Africa Programme to promote bilateral trade with seven sub-Saharan African countries. India had formed partnerships with major subregional African groups and the African Union. In addition to implementing projects, India had provided African countries with assistance for project-related activities such as feasibility studies and consultancies involving Indian experts. Through the India–Africa Project Partnership Conclaves, India facilitated interaction between its industries and African countries. In conclusion, the speaker said that UNCTAD should continue its independent research and analytical work on Africa, and technical cooperation activities catering for the development needs of African countries.

20. The representative of **Japan** commended UNCTAD's activities in favour of Africa, and announced that the fourth meeting of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) would be held in Yokohama from 28 to 30 May 2008. Under the slogan "Towards a Vibrant Africa" TICAD IV was expected to come up with a concrete plan for Africa's development, building on the recent favourable political and economic changes in that continent. Trade, investment, infrastructure and agriculture issues would be debated under the theme "acceleration of growth" in order to help make the current favourable environment one that fostered sustainable and pro-poor growth.

21. The representative of the **Russian Federation** underscored the importance of UNCTAD's work for Africa in assisting the continent in its efforts to achieve greater economic diversification, as well as in trade and investment promotion, and debt relief. The Russian Federation was playing its part in the G8 initiatives, but African countries needed to strengthen their national institutions through capacity-building in order to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the current favourable international economic environment. UNCTAD XII, to be held in Africa in 2008, should attract more attention to that continent. The Russian Federation would continue to help Africa in its development efforts.

22. The representative of **China** noted that despite the recent remarkable economic and social progress it had made, Africa still faced serious challenges to its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The continent needed support from the international community to develop its key sectors, including infrastructure, agriculture, industry, and health and education, as highlighted at the recently concluded UNCTAD/UNDP meeting on Asian FDI in Africa, and at the African

Development Bank's annual meeting held in May 2007 in Shanghai. Africa was particularly in need of infrastructure and human resource development, and employment creation in order to reduce its high level of poverty. Therefore, the international community should fulfil its promises made to Africa relating to, inter alia, debt cancellation, market access and poverty reduction. In 50 years of development cooperation with Africa, China had awarded up to 20,000 scholarships to Africans and implemented 900 development projects in that continent. It had also recently cancelled about Yuan (RMB) 11 billion of Africa's debt, and was in the process of cancelling another Yuan (RMB) 10 billion. In order to help boost the continent's export earnings, a number of African countries had duty-free access to Chinese markets.

23. The representative of **Mauritius** expressed appreciation for UNCTAD's work on Africa. Mauritius had benefited from a review of its investment policy: investment flows had increased after implementation of its policy recommendations. Other UNCTAD activities that benefited Mauritius were research and advisory services for islands, TrainForTrade, competition law activities and Aid for Trade. The areas that needed more work were temporary migration (in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration), supply capacity and competitiveness.

24. The representative of the **United States of America** said that her country had a variety of trade and development programmes for Africa, and expressed its total commitment to working with African partners for the region's growth and prosperity. She requested clarification on two issues in the report under discussion. First, why had so many countries been waiting for so long to have their Investment Policy Reviews carried out by UNCTAD? Second, to what extent had UNCTAD explored public–private partnerships as a development strategy that could be widely applied in Africa? She urged African representatives to share their views on the extent to which they benefited from UNCTAD's work.

25. The representative of **Senegal** noted with appreciation that the level of aid to the LDCs had doubled in nominal terms between 1999 and 2004. However, he expressed his concern about the sectoral composition of ODA, and in particular the declining share of net ODA for economic infrastructure, which was one of the key sectors for enabling LDCs, most of which were African countries, to develop their productive capacities in order to take full advantage of the available trade opportunities. The report on activities undertaken by UNCTAD in favour of Africa indicated that the share of ODA for economic infrastructure had declined from 48 per cent of total aid commitments in 1992–1994 to 24 per cent in 2002–2004. He urged that reconfirmation of the commitment to infrastructure development in Africa be among the priority issues at UNCTAD XII.

26. Africa needed special measures in view of the central importance of commodities in its economies. UNCTAD had been proposing new initiatives on commodities, such as the creation of a Pan-African Commodity Exchange, without properly assessing the results of previous initiatives, in particular the International Task Force partnership on commodities launched at UNCTAD XI in São Paulo in 2004. He asked whether the recommendations made at UNCTAD XI had been implemented, and, if so, what they had achieved. The secretariat should provide member States with detailed information about the proposed Pan-African Commodity Exchange before it was created.

27. The representative of **Rwanda** noted that his country had benefited from UNCTAD's efforts to assist Africa. GDP growth had averaged 6 to 7 per cent in the previous three years. However, despite an increase in exports, the country's balance of payments was in chronic deficit as imports were growing more rapidly than low-value-added exports. Capacity-building and infrastructure development were thus of the utmost importance. Also, the lack of roads to access washing stations prevented the country from doubling the income that it could derive from better-quality coffee.

28. The representative of **Iraq**, expressing appreciation for UNCTAD's work in favour of Africa and LDCs, encouraged the secretariat to train more officials from the African continent in the field of trade and investment policymaking. He proposed that more emphasis be placed on the development of infrastructure and commodity sectors in view of their importance for Africa's development. Furthermore, the cancellation of Africa's debt would allow countries to use their savings to finance development projects rather than to service their debts. In addition, UNCTAD should help Africa to pursue investment policies that increased economic growth without compromising the overall objective of sustainable development.

29. The representative of **Zimbabwe**, while expressing appreciation for UNCTAD's work for Africa, said that specific work by the secretariat in the area of commodities left much to be desired. The secretariat should give a much higher profile to that area by allocating to it more human and financial resources. He believed that the current work, including the idea of establishing a Pan-African Commodity Exchange, would not meet the real needs of many commodity-dependent African countries. He called on the secretariat to inform the Trade and Development Board of its plan to help step up its work on commodities in the immediate future.

30. The representative of **Zambia** remarked that the time to review UNCTAD's activities in Africa had come during a period when most African countries were shifting the focus of their development policies towards developing their own capacities and encouraging their nationals to invest in their own countries. The secretariat should therefore devote more attention to commodities, domestic investment and the development of productive capacities in Africa. This would enable the continent to make effective use of its abundant natural resources, enhance entrepreneurial capabilities and create sectoral linkages that would generate high levels of economic growth, create wealth and reduce poverty. She commended UNCTAD's recent Investment Policy Review of Zambia, which contained concrete recommendations for addressing some of the country's bottlenecks, including those hampering the promotion of domestic private investment.

31. Many countries, including Zambia, had joined the African Peer Review Mechanism, having recognized the importance attached to good governance, accountability and the rule of law, and there was evidence of improvement in those three areas. However, despite these efforts by the African countries, structural constraints continued to hold back progress towards development. In conclusion, the speaker thanked UNCTAD for its useful work for Africa, as well as all the development partners that had continued to support the work of the secretariat.

32. The representative of **South Africa** said that improving the quality of aid would alleviate factors limiting African development. He commended UNCTAD's work on new and dynamic sectors such as energy savings in the Southern African Development Community, insurance, fruit exports, and ICTs and competitiveness as a follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society. He recommended that

there be further assessment of the proposals made at UNCTAD XI in São Paulo before UNCTAD XII in Accra.

33. The representative of **Nigeria** praised UNCTAD for its activities in Africa, and said that they were a clear indication of the secretariat's commitment to the improvement and the well-being of the continent. The engagement of various development partners in the assistance to Africa should be sustained. The recent good record of many African economies was mainly due to the unsustainable commodity boom. Africa's effective integration into the global trading regime could be achieved only through greater commitment by the development partners to the continent's capacity-building aimed at enabling it to add more value to its exports. Non-tariff barriers to African exports had to be eliminated. UNCTAD should ensure that those issues remained in the forefront of international discourse, while African countries should enhance the institutionalization of good governance to ensure the effectiveness of assistance provided by UNCTAD and other development partners.

34. The **Director of the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes** provided further explanation regarding the Integrated Framework (IF). He said that the total amount of financial contributions to the IF by three donor countries – Finland, France and the Republic of Korea – for 2007 was roughly at the same level as in the previous year. The concrete IF activities carried out by UNCTAD had not been reported to the Board, but their general thrust was an emphasis on country ownership and trade mainstreaming. The Division had also been active in the field of Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS): for example, it had contributed to several chapters in the studies for the Comoros and Niger. National pre-DTIS workshops had been held in Niger and Sudan, and a global workshop in Dakar (Senegal), all of which had contributed to the enhancement of the IF. In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, UNCTAD had organized sensitization missions to the Comoros, Equatorial Guinea and the Solomon Islands; these had led to the entry of the Comoros and the Solomon Islands into the IF. With regard to formulating projects to receive funding from Window II of the IF Trust Fund, UNCTAD had assisted countries such as Guinea and Djibouti in the field of commercial diplomacy. Projects now in the pipeline included those relating to capacity-building for trade issues (Sao Tome and Principe, and Sierra Leone), competition and investment (Chad), and rules of origin (Lao People's Democratic Republic).

35. In conclusion, the speaker said that UNCTAD had launched a study on trade mainstreaming and had initiated pilot missions (Uganda, April 2007; and Zambia, July 2007) to test a methodology on how to mainstream trade into national development strategies and enable the least developed countries to integrate into the global economy.

36. The **Director of the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities** thanked the African Group Coordinator for the Group's supportive statement on the commodity work done by UNCTAD, and more particularly on the Global Initiative on Commodities and the Pan-African Commodities and Derivatives Exchange. She stressed that the Division's work on commodities had been dictated by the mandate and guidance given to UNCTAD by its member States, including African countries, through the São Paulo Consensus, the yearly meeting of the Trade Commission, and the United Nations budget and programme process. UNCTAD's report for the present session did not include research and analysis and consensus-building activities, but only technical cooperation activities focused on Africa. In fact, a significant amount of

commodities work on a stand-alone basis or in support of technical cooperation and consensus-building activities had been carried out in the previous four years on cross-cutting themes and on sectors of particular interest to commodity-dependent countries, which were mostly African and least developed countries. Examples included compensatory finance, commodity exchanges, South–South trade, sustainable cotton production, innovative financing schemes, the impacts of commodity liberalization and access to markets for small producers. All UNCTAD intergovernmental meetings were backed up by analytical papers, which in the previous two years had covered commodity sectors such as energy, oil and gas in Africa, steel and speciality products, biofuels and fisheries. That work responded to Africa's needs expressed at UNCTAD's intergovernmental meetings and more particularly in the African Union's Conference of Ministers of Trade on Commodities, which had produced the Arusha Declaration and Plan of Action on African Commodities. In addition, the Division reported on a two-yearly basis to the United Nations General Assembly on commodity trends and prospects. That analytical report was used for discussions in the United Nations General Assembly, and facilitated the adoption of the latter's resolution on commodities. The Division also made contributions regarding commodities to publications such as *World Economic Situation and Prospects*, as well as producing its own publications, such as the *Trade and Development Report*, the *Commodity Atlas*, the *World Commodity Survey* and series of statistical handbooks.

37. The speaker stressed that the Division had been handicapped by a lack of funding, but that situation would soon improve with support from the European Commission for an all African, Caribbean and Pacific commodity programme over the next four years. Lastly, she assured delegates that UNCTAD attached the highest priority to commodity-related work with a focus on diversification, supply-chain capacity, value addition and financing issues. UNCTAD remained ready to undertake any additional analytical work in accordance with any new priority indicated by African countries. The Division would circulate to member States a comprehensive list of commodities activities that had been carried out during the previous four years and those that were planned for the year ahead.

38. The **Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa** explained the UNCTAD project on domestic resource mobilization, funded by the United Nations Development Account (5th Tranche), in which his team had been engaged. Its primary objective was to formulate appropriate policy measures to generate more domestic financial resources to fund development needs. That was to ensure that Africa did not repeat the experience of the 1970s and 1980s by accumulating huge debt-servicing obligations. The project also considered policy measures to maximize the efficiency of the use of those resources. Africa should avoid a situation in which the windfalls from the current boom were not used to strengthen African countries' productive capacity or improve the well-being of their populations, as had been the case with past booms. Public resources should be directed to the most pressing needs of the population and the most productive investments. While political imperatives might be important for resource allocation, growth could be achieved only when economic factors took precedence. African countries should think about how to establish an institutional framework that encouraged private investors to invest in the continent. This would entail reducing risk and uncertainty, one of the key factors that explained the low rates of investment in the continent. It was only the efficient use of financial resources that would help Africa achieve its development objectives.

39. The **Head of the Policies and Capacity-Building Branch of the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities** said that UNCTAD's *World Investment Report 2007* would assess the development impact of FDI in the extractive industry and provide policy recommendations for the developing host countries. Of the 23 requests for Investment Policy Review (IPRs) currently pending, 11 were from African countries, eight of which were LDCs. The secretariat's workload had become heavier owing to the increase in IPR activity: it currently produced three or four IPRs and two follow-ups a year. While the Branch had attempted to make some internal adjustments, thereby reinforcing the IPRs and the follow-up team, the process had been difficult on account of financial restraints, and as a result it could not cope with the long waiting list. Lastly, the secretariat would intensify its fund-raising effort, and called on donors to make generous financial contributions.

II. Agendas for the twelfth sessions of the Commissions
(Agenda item 3)

Action by the Board

40. The Board decided that the agendas for the twelfth sessions of the Commissions would be reviewed and approved during Consultations of the President once the Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD was available.

III. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters: – Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board
(Agenda item 4)

41. For its consideration of this item, the Board had before it the following documentation:

"List of non-governmental organizations participating in the activities of UNCTAD" (TD/B/NGO/LIST/8);

"Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purpose of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board" (TD/B/EX(41)/R.1).

Action by the Board

42. The Board decided to postpone consideration of the application by the Arab Federation for Protection of Intellectual Property Rights and to review it together with other applications that would be before the Board at its fifty-fourth session in October.

IV. Other business

(Agenda item 5)

Proposed amendments to certificate of origin GSP Form A

43. For its consideration of this item, the Board had before it the following documentation:

> "Proposed amendments to certificate of origin GSP Form A: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B/EX(41)/2).

44. The **President** drew attention to document TD/B/EX(41)/2 and the proposed amendments to certificate of origin GSP Form A, which took into account the enlargement of the European Union. He proposed that the Board approve the amendments as contained in the document.

Action by the Board

45. The Board approved the proposed amendments to certificate of origin GSP Form A as contained in document TD/B/EX(41)/2.

V. Organizational matters

Opening of the session

46. The session was opened by Mr. Fredrik Arthur (Norway), Vice-President of the Board, who also presided over the session.

Adoption of the agenda

47. The Board adopted the provisional agenda contained in document TD/B/EX(42)/1. (For the agenda as adopted, see annex I of this report.)

Bureau

48. The Bureau of the Board was as elected at its fifty-third session. The Bureau was thus as follows:

President:	Mr. Arsene Balihuta (Uganda)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Juan Antonio Fernández Palacios (Cuba) Mr. Andrej Logar (Slovenia) Mr. Juan Antonio March (Spain) Mr. Alex Van Meeuwen (Belgium) Mr. Fredrik Arthur (Norway) Ms. Lisa Carle (United States of America) Mr. Iouri Afanassiev (Russian Federation) Mr. Mohammad Ali Zarie Zare (Islamic Republic of Iran) Mr. Miguel Bautista (Philippines)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Ana Inés Rocanova (Uruguay)

Report of the Board on its forty-second executive session

49. The Board authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report of the forty-second executive session under the authority of the President.

Annex I

Agenda for the forty-second executive session of the Board

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Activities undertaken by UNCTAD in favour of Africa
3. Agendas for the twelfth sessions of the Commissions
4. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:
   - Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board
5. Other business
6. Report of the Board on its forty-second executive session

Annex II

Attendance*

1. Representatives from the following States members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Albania
Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Austria
Bangladesh
Belarus
Benin
Bhutan
Bulgaria
China
Côte d'Ivoire
Czech Republic
Djibouti
Egypt
El Salvador
Gabon
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Haiti
Honduras
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Kenya
Mali
Mauritius
Mexico
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Paraguay
Poland
Qatar
Romania
Russian Federation
Serbia
Slovenia
Spain
Thailand
Uganda
Uruguay
United States of America
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zimbabwe

2. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

African Union
European Commission
Organisation internationale de la francophonie

3. The following United Nations agencies were represented at the session:

Economic Commission for Africa
International Trade Centre
United Nations Development Programme

* For the list of participants, see TD/B/EX(42)/INF.1.

4. The following specialized agency and related organization were represented at the session:

United Nations Industrial Development Organization
World Trade Organization

5. The following non-governmental organizations attended the session:

General Category

Engineers of the World
Global Traders Conference
Ocaproce International
Third World Network
World Council of Churches